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## **Message from the Executive Director**



As we enter the 2020 election season, the push for voting has been a clear message. Historically, those awaiting trial and misdemeanants were able to vote in local and national elections. This November, DC residents in custody, including those serving time for felonies, will be allowed to vote under a new provision passed under an emergency reform bill on July 7, 2020. DC now joins Maine and Vermont in allowing convicted felons to vote while serving sentences. Last

week, the CIC met with the Board of Elections to discuss how we can support efforts to promote the new voting legislation within federal facilities. As we continue to navigate through the new voting legislation for the DC inmate population, I will continue to update the community on new information.

Recently, the CIC communicated with the DOC to address a noticeable increase in the inmate population. From April 2020 to August 2020 there was a downward trend; however, during September 2020, the population has increased. Please view the DOC 's response HERE. In addition, the CIC will release a DOC report highlighting promising practices surrounding institutional programs. Once the DOC report is available, it will be posted on the CIC website.

Our holiday postcard project is in production! We are looking forward to partnering with community organizations, constituents, government agencies, and friends to ensure all of DC adults in custody receive an encouraging message this holiday season. For more information on the project and how to get involved, please contact Nailah Seabron: nailah.seabron@dc.gov.

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### **Community Events**

 Remote Justice: Communication in the Virtual Courtroom, Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 12:00pm. Center for Court Innovation and National Legal Aid and Association will host the second webinar on the use of video technology in the criminal courtroom. Formerly incarcerated individuals and current justice reform advocates, a judge, and a psychologist will share their experiences using and observing video in the courtroom. This webinar will be 1 hour long. Register HERE. **Subscribe** 

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# **BACK 2 BUSINESS**

A Small Business Administration Day Event

# FRIDAY September 25, 2020 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

### Back 2 Business Will Help You:

Start a Business • Grow your existing business • Turn your skills into a profit
Gain access to business resources • Provide tools for success
Financial/employment recovery due to COVID-19

Call (202) 645-5023 to register today!

The Zoom meeting credentials are as follows:

Dial in Number: (301) 715-8592

Meeting ID: 862 2617 3594

Passcode: 244420



DCHA is committed to providing equal access to this event for all participants & residents with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation or sign language interpreter service, please contact ADA/504/Language Department at 202-535-2737 or ADA504@dchousing.org with your complete request. Please allow at least 3 business days to make the necessary arrangements. If you need a foreign language translator, please contact ADA/504/Language Department at 202-535-2737 or ADA504@dchousing.org Please allow at least 5 business days to make the necessary arrangements.

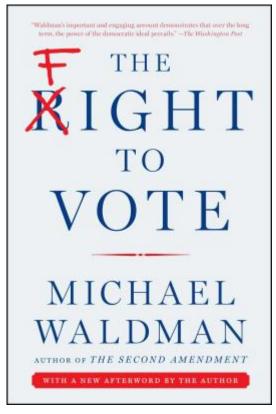
• Trending modalities in Trauma-Informed care, Tuesday, September 29th. 2020, 3:30pm- 5:30pm. This webinar will provide mental health clinicians who work with survivors of trauma and victims of crime with an exposure to the many types of trauma treatment currently in use and with the resources to deepen their understanding and training in trauma treatment. This training is part of a series of trainings under the Enhancing the District's Response to Trauma (EDRT) project—an initiative developed under a partnership between The District of Columbia Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) and Give an Hour-and is intended to provide mental health clinicians and others on the front lines who work with survivors of trauma and victims of crime with the tools to avoid further trauma for their clients. Two (2) hours of Continuing Education hours are available for attending the webinar. Register HERE.

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#### What We're Reading: VOTE

#### The Fight to Vote

by: Michael Waldman



This is the first book to trace the entire story from the Founders' debates to today's restrictions: gerrymandering; voter ID laws; the flood of money unleashed by conservative nonprofit organizations; and making voting difficult to the elderly, the poor, and the young by restricting open polling places. Waldman describes the precedents for these contemporary arguments. The fight has always been at the center of American politics: from counting slaves but not permitting them to vote, to property-less males, then to free Blacks, women, eighteen-year-olds, and the disadvantaged, who were harassed by literacy tests. Now the right to vote is challenged by restrictions on open polling schedules and IDs, plus floods of money.



The CIC is on Instagram!

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